(a) whether additional budgetary allocations have been sought by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for Information Education and Communication (I.E.C.) related activities;

(b) if so, the date on which the said proposal of demand has been received by the Union Government and the action taken on it so far; and

(c) if the amount has not been sanctioned then by when the said proposal will be accepted and the anticipated details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India through the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) allocates flexible budgetary envelopes to States on the basis of a designated formula and National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) approves the annual Programme Implementation Plans (PIP) of the States. The Annual PIP, *inter alia*, contains plan of the State for the IEC activities also. As such, the budgetary allocation for IEC is built into the overall annual Flexible Pool allocation. The PIP of Madhya Pradesh has been approved upto financial year 2008-09. The PIP for the financial year 2009-10 is under consideration. The State of Madhya Pradesh has not sought any additional budgetary allocations for IEC related activities over and above the normal allocation.

Criteria for being senior citizen under CGHS

642. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in CGHS dispensaries and hospitals a person is considered senior citizen if he is above 85 years of age;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor as elsewhere a person above 65 years is considered senior citizen;

(c) whether medical officer in-charge has the discretion to decide the age of senior citizen for purpose of treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. No new criteria for senior citizens has been laid down for CGHS beneficiaries.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Doctor-patient ratio

†643.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of doctors *vis-a-vis* patients in the country at present;

(b) whether this ratio is significantly lower than the prevailing global ratio; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.